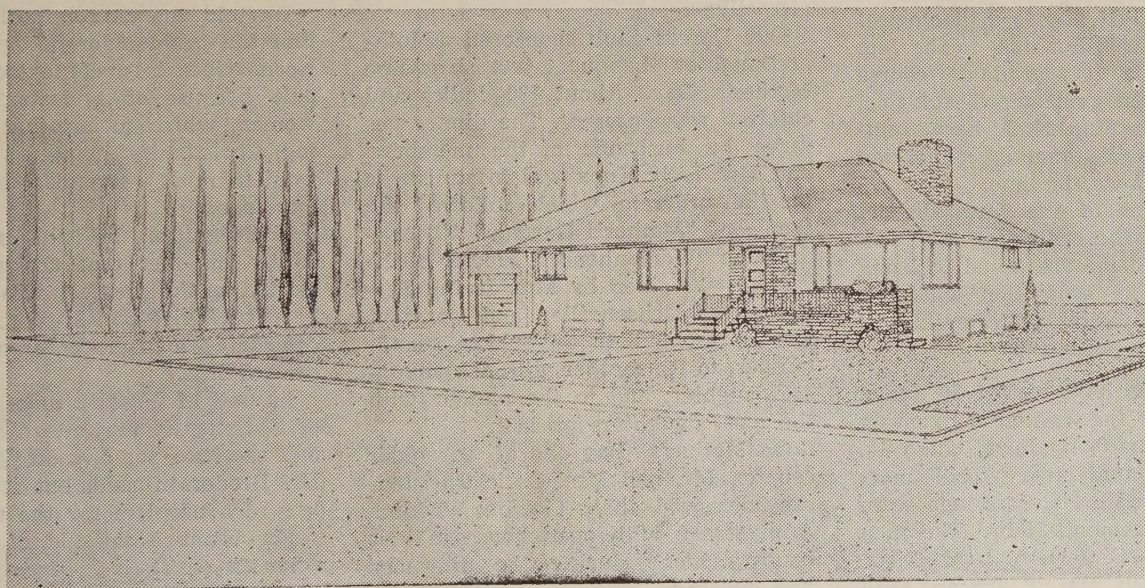


The ANSGAR LUTHERAN



*The Interior of the First Lutheran Church, Brush, Colo., rebuilt some time ago,
and a sketch of the new Parsonage the Congregation is building.*

News and Notes

Brush, Colorado, Pastor Jerrold Elling. The pictures on the first page speak for themselves. About the new parsonage we have this news:

The old parsonage had come to the place where it was definitely a handicap to the work so the congregation disposed of it and is building a new structure on the site of the old parsonage across from the church. It will be a very lovely structure—frame, stucco with red Colorado flagstone trim. It will have a large recreation room, four bedrooms, a Pastor's study and all other features that go to make up a fine home including a two-zone hot-water heating plant. It is so planned that it will be adequate for a pastor with a large family as well as having an arrangement which can be used by a pastor with no children. The people have planned well and worked hard to make this project possible. Its cost will be approximately \$18,000.00 plus donated labor. It is hoped that we will only have about a \$7,500.00 debt against the property. The church debt has completely been liquidated.

The Church at Audubon, Iowa, which was built a few years ago had been finally finished inside before the convention. It had been beautifully painted, and it was a joy for the guests to worship there.

Ordination at Spencer, Iowa. Mr. Frederik V. Jensen will be ordained at Spencer, Iowa, in his home church July 11, at 3 P.M. He is a theological graduate of 1953, but due to the fact that he took a post graduate course the past year at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N. J., he was unable to reach the annual convention at Audubon, Iowa, in time.

Congregations of the Iowa district are invited to the ordination, and pastors who can come are asked to bring their robes. The ordination will take place at 3 P.M. Dr. Hans C. Jersild will officiate at the ordination.

Eight Pastors have served 30 years. The day that the annual convention opened at Audubon, Iowa, June 15, was the 30th anniversary for 8 men, who on that date 30 years ago were ordained at Fremont, Nebr. The men are: Dr. Hans C. Jersild, J. M. Girtz, Spener Petersen, Harold Jensen, Emil

Nommesen, Nels Nesgaard, N. B. Hansen, M. Jorgensen. Pastor Jensen passed away many years ago. Pastor Nesgaard has gone into other work, and Pastor Emil Nommesen is serving at St. John, N. B. Canada, with the Danish Church Abroad. The other men are all very active in the work of the U. E. L. C.

87 Years Old, and Still Going Strong. Pastor N. Bentsen who retired a few years ago recently made a trip in his car from Edmore, Mich., to Kankakee, Ill., and to Webster Groves, Mo., close to St. Louis. He preached several times and then drove back again, a round trip of 1500 miles. We met him at the convention at Audubon, where he was the old smiling Bentsen as always.

Harlan, Iowa, Pastor Lyle Paulsen. Early in May the work of redecorating our church parlors was completed and made possible through a generous donation of work by the men of the congregation and our Pastor Paulsen, followed by the ladies of the clean-up squad. Composition wall board, in random widths and varying shades of tan, was used together with dark brown leatherette on three walls. Light colored plywood in a rippled effect was used at the head of the room as background for the new small Sunday school altar. A new ceiling and new light fixtures complete this very attractive room.

Our Dorcas Club sponsored a Mother-Daughter banquet just before Mother's Day. About 130 ladies and children were present. The dinner was served by husbands of the members, and Mrs. Lilly Knox was toastmistress for the program which followed the theme of "Mother's Garden." The address on "Womanhood, a Flower of the Field," was given by Mrs. Irving Petersen of Jacksonville, and corsages were presented to the oldest grandmother, to the mother with the youngest daughter, and to the mother with the most daughters present.

On Mother's Day one of our older couples, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Christensen, observed their Golden Wedding Anniversary with open house in their country home during the afternoon and evening.

16 new members joined our congregation in May and 12 babies were baptized. On Pentecost Sunday a class of 3 girls and 14 boys were confirmed. In the evening Communion Service was held for the confirmands, the new members, and all who wanted to come.

Our Ladies' Aid and Dorcas Club were hostesses for the S. W. Iowa Circuit meeting of the W. M. S. on Thursday afternoon, June 3. Over 100 ladies were present to hear an interesting message on our Sudan Mission and to meet our missionary Helen Margare Jacobsen. The offering which was received was given to the Sudan Mission.

About 85 youngsters were enrolled for D. V. B. S., held the first two weeks in June. Pastor Paulsen was assisted by eight teachers. On Sunday a few musical numbers were given by the pupils at our morning worship and a picnic dinner for everyone was held in Potter's Park at noon.

MISSIONARY TO FIGHT POLYGAMY IN AFRICA

Copenhagen, Denmark—A young Danish scientist who recently decided to give up a promising career here to become a Lutheran missionary in Africa will try a new approach to the most difficult of all problems facing missionaries in Africa, namely, the problem of polygamy.

According to Kristeligt Pressebureau, official news bulletin of the Church of Denmark, he is Dr. Rol Brodersen, a philosopher.

He told the church bulletin editors that the problem of polygamy in African tribes is made extremely difficult because of a vast "surplus" of women, which means that by accepting Christianity many of the young women must surrender all hope of marriage.

The situation, he said, is complicated by the fact that children are regarded as the greatest wealth in some parts of Africa and in some tribes it is considered a disgrace for a woman to be childless.

In view of these attitudes, acceptance of Christianity may mean a very serious sacrifice for the African women, Dr. Brodersen said, but it creates no less of a problem for the men.

For instance, he said, if an African who has had five wives becomes a

(Continued on page 15)

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Much of our news is received from Religious News Service, and the News Bureau of the National Lutheran Council.

REV. JOHN M. JENSEN, Editor
321 E. 8th Street
Spencer, Iowa

Editorials and Comments

MERGER MOTIONS ADOPTED

Wednesday afternoon June 16, was the day of the merger at the Annual Convention at Audubon, Iowa. The convention had opened the evening before with a full attended service at which Dr. Hans C. Jersild preached. This sermon is printed in full in this paper. Wednesday forenoon guests and delegates went to the Lord's Table. After that the business session was opened. Preliminary work was taken care of and motions pertaining to the Lutheran World Action were promptly passed.

The afternoon session opened with an address by Dr. Carl Empie, who challenged the church on the great cooperative work the Lutherans of America are doing through Lutheran World Action. He spoke very encouragingly about the Lutheran Work in South America, which is being under-written by Lutheran World Action. Over 40,000 refugees who had come to America, had almost paid their debt to National Lutheran Council about one million dollars.

After Dr. Empie's address the secretary presented the motions about the merger. The debate lasted about an hour. No one objected to the merger plans, but questions were raised whether everything had been done to bring Augustana into the merger. These questions were answered. It was stressed by some that the grass roots would know the situation better. But of course, the pastors have had all the chance in the world to inform their people.

When the vote was taken it was almost unanimous. Only one or two faint No's were heard.

What does the vote mean? It means that the committee of nine, which was reelected, with similar committees from the other church bodies will prepare the necessary articles of incorporation, constitution, etc. to be acted upon in 1956, when the final vote in the merger question will be taken.

In order that this question may be clearly understood we print the resolutions as they were adopted by the convention:

Merger Resolutions

The Joint Union Committee respectfully recommends that the 1954 conventions of the American Lutheran Church, The Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Free Church, and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church consider the following Resolutions:

RESOLVED, That the United Evangelical Lutheran Church hereby receives for consideration the Report of the Joint Union Committee.

I. Inasmuch as considerable progress has been made in the merger negotiations without an opportunity having been given for the constituency of each negotiating body to express itself directly on the issue of merger itself,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the United Evangelical Lutheran Church does now give expression to its present

conviction by a convention vote on the following question:

On the basis of information thus far available, the merger negotiations shall be continued.

III. BE IT RESOLVED, That the United Evangelical Lutheran Church, having considered the Report of the Joint Union Committee, does now give expression to its present conviction concerning the Report:

A. The United Evangelical Lutheran Church approves and adopts said total Report as a tentative step basic to and necessary for further steps toward merger.

IV. BE IT RESOLVED, That the United Evangelical Lutheran Church, in consideration of similar action by one or more of the other negotiating bodies, authorizes the election of a Union Committee of nine members. The Church hereby instructs and empowers its committee, in co-operation with the other committees, to guide the further progress of studies initiated in 1950, including the preparation of prospective Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, By-Laws, and Articles of Union for a new Church, as well as any other necessary reports and documents. Such Articles, Constitution, and By-Laws are to be in conformity with previously approved reports of the Joint Union Committee. The Joint Union Committee shall be prepared to report to the 1956 conventions for consideration and action such of these matters as may have been completed by that time.

V. In order that there may be adequate opportunity for clear-cut expression and decision on the main issue,

BE IT RESOLVED, That a definite vote on merger shall be taken at the conventions of 1956 in the form of a separate ballot on the question of entering into the proposed merger; said question, in order to assure the whole-hearted and widespread support necessary to a successful merger, to require for passage an affirmative vote of two thirds or more of the voting delegates present and voting.

AUGUSTANA AND THE MERGER

The President of the Augustana Lutheran Church has called for a correction of fact in the report issued to the Conventions of the American Lutheran Church, The Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lutheran Free Church, and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church by the Joint Union Committee.

Dr. Oscar A. Benson, Minneapolis, Minn., president of Augustana Lutheran Church, in a statement said, "For the sake of the historical record, it becomes necessary to make a correction of fact in one of the resolutions adopted by the Committee of Twenty-seven and published in the 1954 report of the Joint Union Committee of the four bodies of the American Lutheran Conference still negotiating merger."

The resolution gave "assurance that its (the Committee of Twenty-seven) agenda will continue to be open for all pertinent discussions in preparation of the pro-

posed merger, including the subject of ecumenical relations." In its implication that such discussion had been permitted before the adoption of this resolution, this statement is not factual, Dr. Benson said. Several Augustana members of this committee, he stated, attempted repeatedly in meetings of the Joint Committee of Forty-five to discuss possible relations of a merged church with the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. and were told with finality that the matter could not be discussed but would have to be settled after the merger had been consummated.

Continuing, Dr. Benson said, "Since our Church at its 1952 Synod at Des Moines decided that it would be unwilling to continue in unity discussions which did not include the consideration of the subject of ecumenical relations, this item is significant and should be stated correctly lest a wrong impression be made and perpetuated."

The Commission on Ecumenical Relations and the Executive Council of the Augustana Lutheran Church have both endorsed Dr. Benson's stand on this resolution.

In January, 1949, immediately after a meeting of the presidents and representatives of the eight bodies of the National Lutheran Council was held at Augustana headquarters in Minneapolis to discuss the merger of these bodies, negotiations were opened for a tri-partite merger of The Evangelical Lutheran Church, American Lutheran Church, and United Evangelical Lutheran Church. In 1951 this was broadened to include the Augustana Church and the Lutheran Free Church.

In 1952, a 45 member Joint Union Committee consisting of nine representatives from each of these five bodies was formed and drew up three resolutions for submission to the respective groups, asking them to approve a statement of doctrine and practice and to authorize further steps toward unity of the five bodies.

The synod of the Augustana Church which met in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1952, authorized the Executive Council of the Church to select a committee on Lutheran Unity to represent the Church in discussions toward its goal of the total merger of American Lutheranism.

This committee was instructed to request the other groups involved in the proposed five-way merger to "invite all other Lutheran general bodies to participate in further negotiations to achieve Lutheran unity and to include in such discussions the subject of ecumenical relations."

At a meeting of the Committee of 45 held in Minneapolis, November 10, 1952, it was stated that "The Committees of the three bodies originally negotiating merger are without authority from their respective church bodies to include all other Lutheran bodies in said negotiations." At this meeting Dr. Benson, speaking for the Augustana delegations, said, "Under the restrictions placed upon our committee by our Church, it could not

accept the invitation for further discussions of merger of the five bodies."

AUGUSTANA SURPRISES US

The above news release by the Publicity Bureau of the Augustana Lutheran Church surprises us.

The fact is that the Joint Union Committee now and then has discussed the ecumenical questions, or extra-synodical relations. It was done before Augustana entered the committee, it was discussed while Augustana was present, and it was done after Augustana departed.

The Augustana Lutheran Church at its convention in 1952, only adopted the United Testimony in substance. It also resolved that the merger discussions should be broadened to include all Lutheran church bodies in America. And it asked that the negotiations include discussions of "the subject of ecumenical relations."

This was brought before the five bodies, when they met Nov. 10, 1952, at Minneapolis, Minn.

What answer did the Joint Union Committee of the five bodies give Augustana at that meeting? The Committee of Twenty-seven reiterated its cordial invitation to the Augustana Lutheran Church to participate in the present merger toward a merger of all the American Lutheran Conference Churches. The committee of Twenty-seven also stated that it was without authority to include all other Lutheran bodies in the negotiation. And here is the final resolution at that time: "The Committee of Twenty-seven gives assurance that its agenda will continue to be open for all pertinent discussions in preparation for the proposed merger, including the subject of ecumenical relations."

Dr. Benson together with other members from Augustana heard this resolution read. Right after that Dr. Benson stated that while his committee appreciated the spirit of the other delegations, the mandate from his Church was such that he felt he and his committee must withdraw.

The whole matter seems so clear to us that we are surprised to get Dr. Benson's statement. He must completely have overlooked the last paragraph, where it was explicitly stated that the committee was willing to discuss ecumenical relations.

The only real reason the Augustana committee could have to withdraw was the fact that it had a mandate from its church to continue in the negotiations **only** if these were made to include all Lutheran general bodies. The Committee of Twenty-seven had no authority to do that.

The fact that "The Commission on Ecumenical Relations and the Executive Council of the Augustana Lutheran Church have both endorsed Dr. Benson's stand on this resolution" is strange. How could they all make this mistake?

We feel sure that when Dr. Benson has studied this whole question, he will admit that he has misunderstood it and that he will regret he called for such a "correction."

The Holy Spirit---Creator, Teacher, Comforter, Glorifier

John 14:25-26; 16:14

Annual Convention Sermon by President Hans C. Jersild

As tonight we open our 58th Annual Convention we have chosen to speak about our Church and her present as well as her future labors under the title: "The Holy Spirit—Creator, Teacher, Comforter, and Glorifier." Apart from the Holy Spirit as He through Word and Sacrament creates, teaches, and sustains, using human instruments and means, this 58th opening service would not have come to pass. It therefore has time-significance to speak about the Holy Spirit as we dwell on our Church and her work.

The Spirit Creates and Teaches

The Church of Jesus Christ owes her beginning to the creative work of the Holy Spirit. The founders of the Christian Church "received power when the Holy Spirit had come upon them, and they became God's witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." The power of the Spirit made these first disciples witnesses who went forth to establish the Church. And down across the centuries as other witnesses went forth we have the foundation also of our Church.

Just as our part of the Church of Jesus Christ accounts for her beginning by reference to the creative power of the Holy Spirit, so too she accounts for her continuance by the direction of the Holy Spirit. For says the Word: "The Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my Name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." Teach all things, bring all things to your remembrance. He is the blessed teacher about Jesus Christ. As He teaches through Word and Sacrament He directs and guides into all truth. He endows His servants to proclaim that truth. He enables growth and enrichment.

This past year we have grown in baptized membership 4.3 per cent, and in confirmed membership 3.4 per cent. Back of those numbers there is a lot of faithful and diligent work. Pastors together with interested laymen by word and example have brought in new members as they have received adult instruction and have been confirmed, as they have had a change of heart, as they have been transferred from other congregations. We would like to believe that our growth has been not only numerical but also spiritual, that the past year has added to our spiritual understanding, our growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us ever be devoutly conscious of our spiritual goals, of the salvation of souls. We cannot be satisfied with just numbers. Our objective must ever be changed hearts, consecrated lives, renewed conditions.

The Spirit Comforts and Sustains

The Holy Spirit is our Comforter. He not only makes for newness of life, develops and enriches that newness;

but also comforts and sustains that newness. Life's greatest comfort comes to us in forgiveness of sin. "In which Christian Church He (Holy Spirit) daily forgives all my sins, and the sins of all believers." The Spirit as He works faith in Jesus Christ in your heart and my heart enables forgiveness of sin. That forgiveness brings peace, hope, new strength, and new vision. Blessed gracious comfort of the Holy Spirit! Through the Word He heals and helps; He comforts and consoles; He enriches and endows. As the forgiving power of the Gospel wrought by the grace of the Spirit more and more lays hold of your and my hearts, the more we shall know the comfort of the Holy Spirit in sorrow and trial, in weakness and frailty, as well as in joy and strength. Forgiveness enables the cleansed, strengthened, and sustained life to do greater things, to perform greater service, to practice greater giving.

As we look at the labor of our Church the past year we must say that under God there has been widespread activity. There are five new churches, nine new parish houses, and in our home missions there has been energetic advance. In the field of Christian education and training eight young men present themselves for ordination, two of our young folks, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Jorgensen, will be commissioned for the foreign mission field. Our College has graduated a group of young men and women some of whom will go forth as teachers, others as parish workers, and others into other fields of endeavor. Our giving is steadily moving upward. Ten years ago in 1944 our giving to Foreign Missions, Lutheran World Action, and the synodical budget, which constitute by now the regular annual requests for our funds, was \$3.71 per confirmed member. Today ten years later for the same three causes including the L. W. A. receipts of West Canada, it is \$9.03 per confirmed member, or far beyond two times as much. True we have an inflated dollar today; but still we may rightfully contend that our giving has grown. We can indeed be very thankful to God for the above heartening results. Our people have across the years grown in a sense of stewardship and willingness to respond to God's great work. We have marched onward and upward as God has moved hearts and hands in a bigger and stronger way. May we ever be conscious of the truth that God desires doing and giving which shall be constrained by the love of Christ—Christ motivated.

The Spirit Glorifies

Through all sincere efforts for the Kingdom of God we seek the glorification of God. As the Holy Spirit works in us and through us, He glorifies the Christ. Every earnest believer wants to be used so that not his name is glorified but God's Name. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works

and glorify your Father who is in heaven." In other words the Holy Spirit through the Christian's deeds glorifies God.

The more you and I as God's children yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit under the guidance of God's word, and allow Him to wield and shape our going and coming, our labors and deeds for God's cause; the more self is laid aside and Jesus Christ really stands out and becomes great and precious to others. Then too is experienced the truth of the word: "He who loses his life for my sake shall find it," find it on that higher selfless level of sacrificial devotion to God and His Kingdom, find it in a life which becomes more and more Christ-centered, God-centered, instead of self-centered. We will count in a greater and richer way for God and man. Our labors will in greater measure be unhampered by self and its selfish desires. Christ Jesus takes the great place, becomes alpha and omega. God's Name is glorified.

The Spirit Challenges

We would be untrue to our trust if we let this message be principally a look into the past year. God calls upon us to press onward. We read: "**But one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus,**" Phil. 3:13-14. We are to look ahead and move onward and upward by the grace of the Holy Spirit. That is God's program for His Church. There can be no stand-still. The watchword is forward, advance in Christ. We cannot rest with past achievements. There is so much, so very much, to do, and time is swiftly running out.

Out of our particular circumstances as a Church we see a challenge coming from God. We have reached the time when we have a decided scarcity of vacant calls. In fact there are only two vacancies. As matters now obtain these two vacancies do not constitute vacancies in so far as both of them have the services of supply pastors, and upon inquiry we have learned that no effort is being made to call one of our pastors. Today therefore we would be unable to recommend any pastor, who may desire a change, to a vacancy. Such a condition is distressing. We are agreed, I am sure, that we always need vacancies. Furthermore we are graduating comparatively large classes from our Seminary. We have an obligation to those young servants. They are God-called and God-provided. We are as a Church to do all we can to place them. God forbid that we should interfere with His call to young brethren for His service. What is more fields are white unto harvest. There is an abundance of open fields many of them of the same promising nature as for instance Lynwood and Norwalk have proven to be. But we need funds. We need them not only to fulfill obligations to fields to which we are already committed, but also to activate new fields especially promising which have already been assigned to us.

God has given us man-power. He has given us fertile fields which beckon our cultivation. But right now we

lack funds to enter upon those fields. What will we as Church do to meet this most urgent, we believe, Spirit-directed challenge? Maybe this question is arising within the minds of some of my hearers: Have we not now reached a high point in giving? Should this matter be pressed at such a time as this? Let us examine these questions more closely.

For several years we have done a large amount of church and parish house building. So too have other church bodies. It has fallen to our lot personally to have had a part in giving to three new church building programs the last fifteen years. The extensive local congregational building program is indeed a praiseworthy situation. It has served us in a stronger way to a more complete work both locally and synodically. It has meant also that our per capita giving as a Synod has been up until last year been the highest among Lutheran Churches. The year now being reported shows Missouri Synod to have passed ahead of us. The statistics giving this information reveal that it is our combined congregational and synodical receipts which yield the large per capita average. Whereas if we consider only synodical receipts, or what we call benevolences, the statistics show that in 1950 there were five Lutheran synods which gave more per capita for benevolences than we did. The same is true for 1951. In 1952 and 1953 two Lutheran bodies gave more than we did. In fact our Church in the statistics referred to ranks as number twenty-five in giving out of a total of forty-seven United States Protestant churches reporting for 1953. In other words over fifty per cent of the U.S. Protestant churches reporting their giving surpass our Church. The words are spoken to call attention to the fact that we cannot justifiably in the light of what more than 50 per cent of the reporting Protestant churches are doing contend that our giving is reaching a peak beyond which there should be no further urging to go. The question may legitimately be raised: Do we ever in God's great soul-rescuing work reach such a limit?

Will We Meet the Challenge?

Out of all the foregoing arises the question: Has not the time arrived when we should again make an extra effort for our Synod? There are great needs calling for help. We have already noted our home mission needs. We can also mention the extensive rehabilitation needful on the part of our College buildings. Old Main full of tender memories and historical meaning is very much in need of repair. So too are other buildings. Our Pension Fund needs replenishment. We have adopted a new Pension Plan. It does not as anyone will readily understand do anything for our present pensioners. Nor will it because of the time element provide pastors fifty years and over a pension equal to the one now received in the old Plan. Yet all these servants both the present pensioners as well as those eligible for pension within ten or fifteen years should be assured of at least around the amount now given. To do that, it is wisdom to raise in times of prosperity an extra amount as reserve. You

(Continued on page 13)

Synod Asks For Special Drive of \$350,000

The Annual Convention was rather unprepared for the request of the Church Council that a great ingathering of \$350,000 be started as soon as possible. But the Convention responded by more than a two-thirds majority by ballot vote, 199 for and 73 opposed.

The School Board of Dana College and Trinity Seminary is in great need of funds for repairing Old Main, a new Sewer is required, and the boilers must be renewed.

We have home mission fields of great promise that we should occupy, and we have good men with which to do it.

The new pension plan which is similar to that of the planned merged church demands that we take care of the men who cannot benefit from the new pension plan.

Here is the resolution in full as it was adopted:

Whereas God has provided us with man-power and with promising fields white unto harvest, but funds are lacking with which to activate them:

Whereas God has through the years enabled the expansion of our school plant and its facilities, but budgetary funds have not made possible the proper maintenance of the plant:

Whereas our Pension Fund, due to the adoption of the New Pension Plan is now very much in need of additional funds to care for our present pensioners and pastors who will become eligible for pension during the next ten to fifteen years.

And whereas your Church Council, your Board of Home Missions, your Board of Trustees of Dana College and Trinity Theological Seminary, and your Board of Pensions have gone on record unanimously as favoring an ingathering for our Home Missions, our College and Seminary, and our Pensions,—

Be it resolved that:

- 1) An ingathering of \$350,000.00 be inaugurated under the name of "ONWARD WITH CHRIST" or a like name,
- 2) Be it further resolved that the first \$300,000.00 be shared equally by the Board of Home Missions for Church Extension, the Board of Trustees for Dana College and Trinity Theological Seminary for the restoration and improvement of our College Property; and by the Board of Pensions for our present pensioners and the pastors who will soon become eligible for pension.
- 3) Be it finally resolved that incoming funds in excess of \$300,000.00 be assigned to Church Extension.

The Business Sessions of the Annual Convention

An annual convention is made up of three parts. First the inspirational part, which comes from the worship and fellowship about the Word and the Sacrament. A number of pastors break the Word of Life to delegates and guests. Informational addresses are given that challenge to service.

The second part is the fellowship outside the convention. Friends from near and far get together. They share views and ideas. This is not the least important part. Often some of these views are crystallized into definite decisions at the convention.

The third part is the business which is transacted at the convention. That too may be very stimulating. If the boards are able to provide information that is clear and pertinent to the problems the business may become a joy too, even though there are a number of mechanical things that must necessarily be passed.

The convention chairman, the Rev. Wm. Larsen, is a very able and keen presiding officer. He is fair and he holds the convention in the hollow of his hand. He always knows what he is doing.

It is no easy task to be a good convention chairman. The fact is that he is not always too conversant with the subjects, when they are brought before the meeting, for he is not sitting in with the boards during the year.

A number of officers are appointed or elected for the convention only. We shall name all the officers so that the readers who were not able to attend may have an idea of the men who served.

CONVENTION OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Credentials Committee

Rev. Wesley Anderson
Rev. Einer Romer

Business Committee

Rev. S. S. Kaldahl
Mr. J. A. Rasmussen

Editor for the Reporter

LeRoy F. Andersen

Reporters to The Ansgar Lutheran

Rev. Ervin Bondo
Rev. Thorvald Hansen

Reporter to the Luthersk Ugeblad

Rev. Frantz O. Lund

Reporter to the Local Press

Rev. Irving Petersen

Pastor J. M. Girtz appointed the tellers.

Members of Nomination Committee were:

Atlantic District

Rev. Elmer Anderson
Mr. Howard Petersen

Illinois District

Rev. Donald Hansen
Mr. LeRoy Andersen

Pacific District

Rev. Ingward Olsen
Mr. Harold Larsen

Iowa District

Rev. Arthur Sorensen
Mr. John Bruun

Minnesota District

Rev. Fred Jacobsen
Mr. Glenn Schultz

Nebraska District

Rev. James Olsen
Mr. L. M. Andersen

North Dakota-Montana District

Rev. Johan Petersen
Mr. Clarence Christensen

West Canada District

Rev. Emil Pedersen
Mr. Gordon Nielsen

Wisconsin District

Rev. Raymond Paulsen
Mr. Eric Christensen

The General Committee

Pastor Clarence Jensen
Pastor Stanley Larsen
Pastor Edwin Petrusson
Layman Chris H. Jensen, Audubon
Layman Marius Ohlsen, Chicago

The Ordination Committee

Pastor F. C. M. Hansen
Pastor Fred Jacobsen
Pastor O. V. Magnussen
Pastor Karl J. Wilhelmsen
Layman John Gebuhr, Council Bluffs
Layman J. K. Jensen, Audubon
Layman Martin Lange, Racine

IMPORTANT ELECTIONS

Laymen—Church Council (3-year term)

West: J. A. Rasmussen, Los Angeles, Cal.; East: Martin Petersen, Boston

Layman—Treasurer (1 year term) H. J. Hansen, Blair

Layman—Synodical Board of Education (5 year term) Harold W. Holm, Racine

Layman—Board of Trustees, Dana College (5 year term) P. V. Hansen, Blair

Pastor—Board of Parish Education (3 year term) Stanley Larsen, Exira

Layman—Japan Mission Committee (3 year term) Mrs. Elmer Christensen, Green Bay

Layman—So. American Mission Committee (3 year term) Martin Iversen, Sidney

Pastor—Sudan Mission Committee (3

year term) B. J. Engskow, Fresno

Pastor—Santal Mission Committee (year term) Stanley Carlsen

Layman—Pension Fund Board (3 year term) Keith Knudsen, Lincoln

Pastor—Lutheran Publishing House Board (3 year term) F. C. M. Hansen, Chicago

Pastor—Lutheran Publishing House Board (unexpired 2 year term) Archie Madsen, Fremont

Laymen—Lutheran Publishing House Board (3 year term) N. O. Berthelsen, Chicago

Karl Christensen, Blair

Pastor—Statistician (3 year term) C. Jensen, Blair

IMPORTANT REPORTS

A pre-convention report is mailed to pastors and delegates some weeks before the convention. This report contains a review of the work in the synod during the past year. It also contains recommendations and resolutions which are the basis for the action taken by the convention.

The Pension Fund officers reported \$720.00 has been paid to retired pastors the past year, and \$480.00 to pastors widows. A lively discussion took place after the report had been accepted. The Pension Fund is still not really clarified in the minds of the people. We hope to bring more light on this subject later.

Dana College and Trinity Seminary reported. Over 225 students have been enrolled at the college plus a number of special students. The budget requested was \$87,000 for the coming year. \$23,000 of that is spent on the seminary. Some other \$10,000 come in through other means for the college.

The Seminary had 22 students the past year. It graduated a class this spring of seven men.

The Foreign Mission Board reported on its activities. But since we have reports on the foreign mission every other week in this paper, we shall simply state that Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Jorgensen have been accepted as agricultural missionaries to Santaligar India. They will be sent out this fall. We have two missionary couples in Japan, one couple in Sudan, Africa and two ladies, and one couple and one lady in Colombia, South America. A estimated budget for foreign mission from May 1st, 1954 to May 1st, 1955 will be \$56,500.00.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Convention next year will be held at Lynwood, Calif.

The American Lutheran Conference was discussed. Dr. S. E. Engstrom, president of the conference, had written the church council and suggested that it be dissolved. This Conference has been a fellowship conference made up of the American Lutheran Church, the Augustana Lutheran Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Free Church, and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church. It was organized in 1930. It has served as a medium of exchange of ideas. It also started student service at the secular colleges and universities. It published a monthly magazine, and it has been of help in many things. But in view of the fact that four of the members now are on the way to merge, the motion was made that the American Lutheran Conference be dissolved in view of the fact that its time of service is now nearly completed. The motion was carried.

A New Congregation Received. Galilee Lutheran Church, Pewaukee, Wis., was received into membership of the U.E.L.C. The church has been in the charge of Pastor Thorvald Hansen. At the formal reception conducted by Dr. Hans C. Jersild, Pastor Hansen and

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ruch, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Denkinger and Pastor LeRoy F. Andersen represented the congregation. Pastor Andersen was ordained June 20, and he has accepted a call to be pastor of this new church.

The Attendance. Saturday noon 293 lay delegates and 103 pastors answered the roll call. This is a total of 396 voting members. But about 300 visitors had also registered. The number of guests, delegates and pastors was close to 700.

The Convention Site for 1956 has not been decided, but the congregation at Sidney, Mont., has invited the synod. We hope this may be chosen as the place, for it is a long time since we have had a convention in that part of the country.

Adjectives and Verbs

In listening to the messages at the convention we were struck with the sincerity and zeal with which they were proclaimed. But now and then we got to think of an advice of an old teacher who said: "When you speak and write be careful about your adjectives and your verbs. Learn to use your verbs, they are the most forceful words in any message. Be careful about your adjectives. Adjectives may

detract from your message. That goes for some adverbs too."

If a thing is good, it may not always be wise to say it is very good. The gospel is power unto salvation. It does not improve the effectiveness of this statement by saying that the wonderful gospel is a great power unto salvation.

The Opening Service

We believe that the opening service this year was an improvement over the past opening services of our convention. The announcements given were only the most necessary, and the usual greetings from a number of men were given at the opening of the business meeting the next day. This adds to the dignity and impression of the service.

President Jersild gave a good message, and the Audubon choir sang a beautiful anthem.

If any further improvements should be made we suggest that the order of the opening service be printed, and the announcements also. When people from all over the land meet for the opening service it should be as solemn as possible. The opening service should be a model service for both pastors and people.

The Annual Budget

It has now become traditional to place the annual budget before the convention Saturday forenoon. During the week the different departments have been reviewed. The convention is therefore generally prepared to give prompt approval of the budget.

The budget is considerably larger this year because May 1st, the Districts turned over all district home mission work to the Synodical Board of Home Missions. The districts will no longer ask for home mission contributions. All such contributions will hereafter go directly to the Home Mission Board.

The change in the pension plan also called for an increased amount to that fund.

Budget for 1954-55 and Tentative Budget for 1955-56

General Fund\$ 25,000.00

1954-55 1955-56

26,300.00

Utah Budget	1,542.00	1,342.00
Children's Homes:		
Elim Home	\$6800.10	6839.80
Oaks Home	7950.00	9875.00
	<u>14,750.10</u>	<u>16,714.80</u>
Pension Fund	\$ 65,880.00	\$ 69,000.00
Home Missions	58,646.50	61,235.00
Indian Mission	7,550.00	7,500.00
Trinity Seminary	24,640.00	
Dana College	58,660.00	
Dana College and Trinity Seminary		85,000.00
Total Budget	<u>\$256,668.60</u>	<u>\$267,091.80</u>

PAGES FOR YOUTH

Homer Larsen, Editor

Youthspiration

What Do You Do with Spare Time?

The following article is reprinted from the paper, "Lutheran Youth." It is generally understood that during the school year, young people have little or no spare time. However, during the summer months the schedule is not quite as busy. "What Do You Do With Spare Time?" Listen to what this writer has to say.

Maybe you don't have any spare time, and maybe by taking a little stock of yourself and your activities you could have some spare time. Let me share an experience with you. I felt that I ought to speed up my reading, so I went to night school for about 24 nights to take a course in rapid reading. In comparing the results I made in a test I took after the course with the results of a test I took before the course I found that I had increased my reading speed by 43 words a minute and my comprehension by about 12 per cent. In other words, for every hour that I read I can read 2,580 words more than I could before I took this course.

To make this arithmetic easy and keep it in round numbers, suppose I read an hour a day. That means that in the course of a year I can now read a little over 900,000 words more than I could last year. Figuring an average book at 50,000 words, I can now read 15 books more in the course of a year, all because by spending 45 minutes an evening for 24 evenings I was able to increase my reading speed by 43 words a minute. If someone had told me a year ago, "Here are 15 good books; read them in your spare time," I would have said, "I don't have any spare time." Now by improving my efficiency I have found that spare time.

That is only a beginning. By taking a careful inventory of my time I'm sure I could find five minutes here and ten minutes there which all together would add up to quite a bit of time in the course of a year. For example, I spend at least an hour and a quarter on the bus five

days a week. The temptation is there, and I'm afraid I succumb to it altogether too much, to just idle away that time. That time could be spent most profitably in doing some constructive thinking.

What I am really concerned about here is not to encourage you to take a rapid reading course so that you can read more books in the course of a year, although that in itself would be quite commendable. I'm more concerned about the time we waste or don't utilize to its fullest extent when it comes to our spiritual development. Too many of us are content to give God our spare time. That attitude is, of course, wrong, but what makes it even worse is that God doesn't even get that spare time because we don't have it.

I can think of nothing that would be more beneficial to us than to develop a discipline of our time so that we do have time for meditation and spiritual things. First of all, let's set a definite time of the day aside which we will spend for Bible reading, prayer, reading of devotional literature, etc. If we find that we don't have that time then let us take an inventory as to how we are using our time. Are we wasting five minutes here, ten minutes there, and perhaps even a whole hour now and then? If so, let's remedy that situation. If we so discipline ourselves that we can become more efficient in our work, then we shall have more time freed to spend for other things.

One of the best ways in which to become more efficient in our work is to begin with prayer. Martin Luther said that on those days when he thought he had so much work that he couldn't possibly get it all done he spent added time in prayer. Too many of us would be inclined to do just the opposite.

One of our biggest problems is time—or the lack of it. The problem is entirely of our own making. This is a good time to solve the problem.

Lake Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp

The Lake Okoboji Lutheran Bible camp which is owned and operated by members of the Iowa District can report another successful season of camping for the year 1954. The camp opened the first week in June and will not close until the first of September. This is made possible by offering the facilities of the Bible camp to other groups than our own.

The Iowa District Bible camps and dates are as follows:

Junior Camp, July 25th-31st. This camp is for all children between the ages of eight and thirteen years of age. The cost for the complete week will be \$13.50. Pastor F. O. Lund, Sioux City, will be the director, assisted by Pastor Einer Olsen, Neola, Iowa.

Senior Camp, August 8th-15th. Pastor Art Sorensen, Graettinger, Iowa, is the director assisted by Pastor Carl Schattauer, Storm Lake, Iowa. The cost for this camp

will be \$15.75 and this camp is for all young people of Luther League age.

Family Camp, August 15th-21st. The director is Pastor Stanley Larsen, Exira, Iowa, and his assistant, Pastor H. Irving Petersen, Harlan, Iowa. The cost of this camp will be \$2.25 per day per camper. Children seven years of age and under will be charged half price.

Campers for all the camps are required to pay an insurance fee of fifty cents in addition to the regular camping fee.

Again the camp will be managed by Mr. and Mrs. Dave Thomsen, Spencer, Iowa, who have devoted much time and effort to this mission of the church. The Board of directors are: Pastor F. W. Thomsen, Moorhead, chairman; Pastor Carl F. Schattauer, Storm Lake, secretary; Mr. Chris H. Jensen, Audubon, treasurer; Mr. E. S. Sorensen, Des Moines; Mr. James A. Hansen, Cedar Falls.

NORTH DAKOTA-MONTANA DISTRICT LUTHER LEAGUE

Tentative Convention Program

Convention Date: July 23rd—25th, 1954

Convention Theme: REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING!

PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JULY 23rd:

5:00 P. M. Registration....in Charge of The Daneville Luther League.

8:15 P. M. Opening Service, Guest Speaker, Rev. George Robertson, Youth Director, L. L. U. E. L. C.

Liturgist, Rev. Ejvind Nielsen, Vice Pres. L. L. N. D. Mont. L. L.

Convention formally opened by Dist. League Pres. Rev. Silas Larsen.

9:30 P.M. Delegates meet with Rev. Alfred Andersen.. to organize Business Committee.

SATURDAY, JULY 24th:

9:15 A. M. Celebration of The Lord's Supper. Communion Meditation, Rev. Alfred Andersen. Celebrant, Rev. Ejvind Nielsen.

10:00—11:05 Business Session in Charge of Dist. League Pres.

11:10—12:15 Guest Speaker, George Robertson....
LEAGUE WORK AND PROJECTS.

12:15—1:45 Noon Recess

1:45—3:00 Unfinished Business

3:00.....Recreation in Charge of Local League.

7:30 Guest Speaker, George Robertson.
Visual Education.....Filmstrips or Films...
Meeting in charge of Rev. Johan Petersen.

SUNDAY, JULY 25th:

10:30 Worship Service
Guest Speaker, George Robertson.
Liturgist, Rev. Alfred Jensen.
Offering to Luther League Work.

2:30 Closing Service, Guest Speaker, George Robertson
Informal Service in charge of Rev. E. W. Petrusson.
Closing of Convention, League President.
Resolutions....approval of Minutes.

"What Makes A Person A Success?"

Like thousands of other Americans, one evening early in June we attended a high school graduation. It always gives us a thrill to sit in the high school auditorium and watch the graduates come down the aisle in the caps and gowns to receive their diplomas. For some it is only the beginning of their education, for they will go on and receive degrees from colleges and professional schools. For other it means the end as far as their formal education is concerned and the next few months will find them settling down to some type of employment, or for some of the young ladies taking up the all important job of being a good housewife.

At this particular graduation that we attended everything was conducted in the traditional manner. A young lady played an instrumental solo, a sextet sang and then the speaker came to the platform. In speaking to graduates he told them what he felt was necessary if a person

were to be a success in this life. First he had to believe in himself. He told them that it would be impossible for them to be successful in life if they were ever going around apologizing for everything they did and were always telling people that they didn't have the ability to do things as well as others could.

Secondly, a person should not become egotistic. In elaborating on his second point the speaker of the evening said, "A person who is forever emphasizing what he can do will never be a success because no one will appreciate having him around."

As we left the high school building that evening these two thoughts lingered in my mind. How similar to what the Apostle Paul said when writing to the congregation at Philippi when he said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13.

(Continued on page 15)

BY THE FIRESIDE

MORNING SONG

By Oliver Everett

When the sun peeps over the eastern
hill
And the dew is still on the rose,
And the meadowlark calls from beneath
the rill
Where the deep chalice buttercup
grows,
Then joyful my heart seems to soar up
to God
And my voice chokes with unuttered
song.
And I hear, too, the praises that rise
from the sod
While the breeze wafts the anthem
along.
All life renders praise to the Father
above;
All Nature and Heaven in tune
Give thanks to our God for His wonder-
ful love
On this beautiful morning in June.

OUR SPIRITUAL HERITAGE

SOMETHING has gone wrong with
our nation, or we should not be in our
present plight and mood....What we
lack is a righteous and dynamic faith.
Without it, all else avails us little. The
lack cannot be compensated for by
politicians, however able; or by diplo-
mats, however astute; or by scientists,
however incentive; or by bombs, how-
ever powerful.

Our greatest need is to regain con-
fidence in our spiritual heritage....
There is no use having more and louder
"Voices of America" unless we have
something to say that is more per-
suasive than anything yet said.

—John Foster Dulles

REPUTATION OR CHARACTER

The circumstances amid which you
live determine your reputation; what
you believe determines your character.
Reputation is what you are known to
be; character is what you are.

Reputation is a manufactured thing,
rolled and plated and hammered and
brazed and bolted; character is a
growth. Reputation comes over one
from without; character grows up from
within. Reputation is what you have
when you come to a new community;
character is what you have when you
go away.

Your reputation may be learned in an
hour; your character may not come to
light for a year. If you want a position,
you need a reputation; if you want to
keep it, you need character. Reputation

makes you rich or makes you poor;
character makes you happy or makes
you miserable.—The Triad.

WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

Along the upper reaches of the
beautiful Delaware River, men years
ago cut a road into the rocky cliffs for
the travelers going north and south.

A remarkable sight it is to see how,
out of the face of these sheer masses of
rock, blasted and riven by man, there
grows a tree, waving in the wind and
giving delight to the passerby.

For after man had done his work
and had left the rock face torn and
barren, a gentle wind had lifted into
a tiny crevice the seed of this gravity
defying tree. The water flowing down
the rock and the warm sunshine smil-
ing upon it day after day and year
after year helped that seed of life to
germinate until today we see the
miracle of the mighty tree growing
from the face of apparently solid stone.

Just so around about us we see
human lives that had been blasted
and riven by the heedless hand of
man, lives that might have been cold
and stony and unfruitful.

But the gentle Holy Spirit, the
Wind of God, has deposited in the
heart the Living Seed of salvation;
the water of the Word and the lov-
ing smile of our Sun of Righteous-
ness have warmed into growth the
New Life, and, behold, out of death
comes forth life: the miracle of
towering Christian character stands
forth.

There is no impossible case in the
sight of God. When confronted with
a man whose love of this world ap-
peared incurable, who turned away
when Jesus had given him the per-
sonal, warm invitation to "come and
follow me," men asked: "Who then
can be saved?"

The answer came, assured, trium-
phant, "With men it is impossible,
but not with God: for with God
all things are possible."

—Weekly Alliance.

A WINNER

By Emil M. Martinson

He whose mind and heart are rich
Will find a world of treasure.
He whose soul is steeped in joy
Will find a world of pleasure.
He whose character is fine
Will find a fortune finer.
He whose thought is all divine

Will find a world diviner.
For the outward world is but
Reflections of the inner;
And he who first has won himself,
Is in the world a winner.

—Baptist Union

IN OUR MIDST

He passes by, adown a lilac-scented
lane, 'neath radiant summer skies
And through the fevered rush of
city life, he comes—the joy of
Paradise!
The perfect God and perfect man, still
passes through our midst, though
veiled to human eye.
He passes by—at dead of night,
'neath starlit skies—
And passing on his way, he lifts the
weary sufferer's head to lie in peace
upon his breast;
And binds the wounds of broken
hearts, and bids the restless ones
to rest.

—Ruth Salwey.

"Henry, dear," said his wife, "such
an odd thing happened today. The
clock fell off the wall, and if it had
fallen a moment sooner it would have
hit Mother."

"I always said that clock was slow,"
grunted the husband.

Little Claude's mother had reluc-
tantly allowed her precious child to
attend public school. She gave the
teacher a long list of instructions. "My
Claude is so sensitive," she explained.
"Don't ever punish him. Just slap the
boy next to him. That will frighten
Claude."

"She means, all right," said the boy
about his teacher, "but she's fair."

"What do you mean by that?" asked
his mother.

"Well," he replied, "she's mean to
everyone."

A boisterous Congressman once
boasted to Horace Greeley, "I'm a
self-made man." Replied Greeley,
"That relieves the Almighty of a
great responsibility."

The lazier a man is, the more he
intends to do tomorrow.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

(Continued from page 6)

ension Fund Board has realized the need of that reserve for some time. Other Church bodies, as for instance the Evang. Lutheran Church, is just completing \$1,000,000 Drive for that purpose.

Friends, God has wonderfully blessed us as a Church and as a land. We have not experienced the gruesome tragedies of the war-devastated countries. We have been blessed with abundant harvests, with an unusual industrial prosperity. God's great bounty has been poured out upon us. We can claim no merit for such a favored lot. We have been mercifully spared and bounteously blessed with increased material goods—the highest standard of living. We have such an exceedingly great cause for gratitude. Gratitude comes most blessedly to us as God-wrought expression in thanksgiving, in a wholehearted desire to praise God not just in word or speech but in deed and truth (1 John 3:18). God calls upon us

through His manifold blessings to respond in greater activity. Let us answer His call in love and action, and we will be singularly blessed.

In times of abundance we are to lay aside that we may have when the lean years come. In this most prosperous of all lands, and in this most prosperous of all eras with its tremendous progress and invention we have an increased obligation to rally more greatly to the demands of God's Kingdom. Now is the opportune time! Now is the day of decision! We do not know what tomorrow will bring.

Let us therefore stretch ourselves unto a strong undertaking that a greater part of the unchurched, of the unconverted, of the untilled soil, may be reached. Then shall the Holy Spirit through us by the means of Word and Sacrament even more extensively and intensively create, instruct, sustain, and glorify. Then shall we move onward and upward by the power of the Holy Spirit.

S.O.S. in the Night

By Leslie Forbes

As the 17-year-old boy entered the telegraph office in Port Huron, Michigan, a gust of wind slammed the door behind him.

"It's not so cold out tonight," he remarked to the telegraph operator.

The ice on the river will begin to move soon."

"Pretty quiet around here," the operator said. "There hasn't been a sound in the wire for the past hour or more."

The boy removed his overcoat, stomped the snow off his boots, and walked to the telegraph machine. He opened the key and began tapping out the first message to the operator at Sarnia, Canada, a mile across the St. Clair River. But the sounder at his elbow failed to register his signals.

"No wonder it's been so quiet around here," he exclaimed. "The wire is dead!"

Alarmed, the operator hurried to the machine. At that moment a man rushed into the office in great excitement.

"There's been an accident out on the river!" he said. "A boat is being crushed in an ice jam. We've got to

get word to Sarnia. The only help can come from there."

"That explains the dead wire," said the boy. "The cable to Sarnia must be broken."

For a moment the three stood there, terrified by helplessness. Suddenly the silence was broken by the piercing whistle of the evening train as it pulled into Port Huron. The boy grabbed his coat and rushed from the room.

Running as fast as he could to the railroad yards, he jumped aboard the locomotive as it came to a stop. Hastily he explained the predicament to the engineer. Then, without further de-

lay, he seized the whistle cord and began jerking it in a curious rhythm of long and short blasts.

Then he waited. Seconds later he repeated the blasts, then again and again. Finally he heard an answering far-off whistle.

He decoded the message aloud: "Rescue . . . ship . . . leaving . . . now . . . for damaged . . . vessel." Then he grinned and turned to the telegraph operator who had followed him to the train.

"Good work, son," the operator said. "Just keep using your head like that and some day the world will be hearing a lot about Thomas Alva Edison!"

—Printopics.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

	Total Received	Chil- dren's Homes	School Fund	General Fund	Home Mission	Indian Mission	Utah Mission	Pen- sion Fund
Previously acknowledged	6563.81	499.70	2857.75	718.01	1031.65	522.40	95.00	839.30
Council Bluffs, Ia., Miss Barbara Hansen	12.50				12.50			
Washington Island, Wis., Trinity Luth. Sunday School	14.21					14.21		
Sidney, Mont., Brorson Luth. Church	10.35				10.35			
Dolliver, Ia., Dolliver Luth. Church in memory of Conrad Frerichs	57.32				57.32			
Blair, Nebr., Mr. and Mrs. Chris Kuhr and Miss Christine Rasmussen in memory of Mrs. Rev. Hans Nielsen	2.00	2.00						
Audubon, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. Chris H. Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Larsen and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Jensen of Standard, Alberta, Can., in memory of Jens R. Christensen	5.00				5.00			
Audubon, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Sorensen in memory of Jens R. Christensen	1.00				1.00			
TOTAL	6666.19	501.70	2857.75	718.01	1117.82	536.61	95.00	839.30

SPECIAL MISSIONS

	Total Received	Japan Mission	South Amer. Mission	Santal Mission	Sudan Mission	Jewish Mission	China Mission	L.W.A. Mission	Gen. Fd. Foreign Missions
Previously acknowledged	20319.16	498.76	340.74	1460.14	1462.34	83.85	29.47	16368.86	75.00
Eugene, Ore., Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Jensen in memory of mother, Mrs. Jens Jensen	20.00				20.00				
Coulter, Ia., Nazareth Luth. Sunday School	53.35							53.35	
Castro Valley, Calif., Faith Luth. Sunday School	18.59		18.59						
Winnetoon, Nebr., Bethesda Luth. Sunday School, Birthday and Lenten Bank offering	41.28		41.28						
Lynwood, Calif., St. Paul's Luth. Church	569.59							569.59	
Neola, Ia., St. Paul's Luth. Sunday School offering	6.72		6.72						
Neola, Ia., St. Paul's Luth. Church offering	27.21				27.21				
Audubon, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. Norman Henriksen, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Henriksen, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Fenske and Miss Marilyn Henriksen in memory of Erick Thor	7.00							7.00	
TOTAL	21062.90	498.76	407.33	1460.14	1509.55	83.85	29.47	16998.80	75.00

Received with thanks.

Blair, Nebr., June 15, 1954.

H. J. Hansen, Treasurer.

IN DEFENSE OF MOTHERS-IN-LAW

For a long time, we have had the ambition to write a word in defense of mothers-in-law. There will be those who will hasten to assure us that these noble creatures, like the British bulldog, need no defending. Perhaps so, nevertheless our own sense of fitness ought to impel us to give to our mothers-in-law the honor and appreciation due to them.

Mother-in-law jokes are cheap. Most of them, like witticisms directed against fat men, editors, and other afflicted people, are in bad taste.

A recent story in the Australian press is an illustration:

'Dr. Richard Waterman, an American anthropologist working near Yir-kalla Mission in northeast Arnhem Land, spoke to his 'mother-in-law'—and started a tribal row which took half a day to quell.

"Dr. Waterman was admitted into the social organization of a tribe, and, in accordance with tribal practice, was allotted a 'mother-in-law.'

"He did not know that tribal practice also forbids conversation with one's mother-in-law, and when he started to speak to the woman the row began.

"When the fuss had died down and Dr. Waterman had had the custom explained to him, he said:

"'It's a great advance on white civilization.'"

So. By what strange perversion does the mother of a man's fiancée become a different being once the wedding bells have pealed, the certificate is signed, and the bride has been delivered?

That gracious creature, a paragon of the virtues to be deferred to, that matriarchal majesty to be cajoled with flowers and chocolates, becomes an "in-law" whose opinions are not only valueless but dangerous, and whose feelings can now be outraged by cheap and disrespectful ridicule.

Surely the metamorphosis has taken place in the son-in-law and not in his wife's mother.

This unkindly buffoonery is usually undeserved by its object and worthy of its originator.

Quite correctly, we may make much of our mothers. By almost universal consent, we have a special day in their honor. We might reflect that most successful mothers have been also notable in their achievements as mothers-in-law. Indeed, it would seem impossible to achieve success in the one sphere without the other if the children contract marriage.

The Bible is not without illustrations in praise of mothers-in-law. We

may pass by the case of "Peter's wife's mother," whom our Lord raised up from fever, and whom Lloyd Douglas romanticizes in "The Big Fisherman" as the kindly lady who continued to keep house for Peter after his wife's imagined early death. This, of course, is in deference to the Romanist fiction of bachelor popes.

Instead, we might consider the case of Naomi, who was even a better mother-in-law than mother. Naomi, who brought a heathen girl into the fold of the Old Covenant by her quality as an "in-law," and who found a place in the main stream of God's purpose in history by her notable accomplishment as the link between God and her dead son's widow. There is no lovelier story in human language than the story of Naomi and Ruth, and it is Naomi's story—the story of a mother-in-law.

We know of mothers who have been presented with unbelieving sons or daughters-in-law by careless children, and who have, by the quality of their relationship, won these unbelieving ones to Christ. No one can achieve greater honor than that. If we want to talk about mothers-in-law, let us consider such achievements. They are a truer presentation of most Christian mothers than the vulgar wisecracks we so frequently hear.

—Australian Baptist.

WHAT MAKES A PERSON A SUCCESS?

(Continued from page 11)

The two things that made St. Paul such a great man in the Kingdom of God were, first, that he relied completely on the Lord, and secondly, that by God's grace he could do forth and do great things for his Savior.

Paul was not egotistical. He was always aware of the fact that he himself was a sinful man. He knew that he had broken God's law. He knew it was impossible for him to keep the law of God perfectly. He knew he was dependent on Christ for forgiveness. He knew Christ had come into this world to cleanse him from all of his unrighteousness.

But at the same time that this great man of God was not egotistical, he was not suffering from an inferiority complex. When he was asked to preach in the city of Athens he didn't say, "Well, I don't think I had better

accept your invitation because there are so many educated people here in Greece that I might make a fool of myself." Instead he was ready to go; he was happy to go and preach. When he went away from that city the Bible tells us that while some mocked him there were others who believed in Christ as their Savior.

It's pretty good advice for any young person to follow. Believe that by God's grace your Heavenly Father has a place for you in this world and you can do great things for Him. But when you do meet with some success, as you will if you rely on Him, don't begin to talk about the big "I" but remember all that you are and all that you have done is through Christ who strengthens you. In that light the speaker at the commencement exercises was right. To be successful we must believe in ourselves but we must never become egotistical and proud.

Our Bible Camps

Atlantic District

Lake Winnepesaukee, N. H. —July 3-10

Wisconsin District

Spencer Lake, near Waupaca, Wis.—July 18-24

Minnesota District

Wood Lake, Grantsburg, Wis.

Junior Bible Camp —Aug. 8-14 and Aug. 15-21

Iowa District

Lake Okoboji

Junior Camp —July 25-31

Senior Camp —Aug. 8-15

Family Camp —Aug. 15-21

Nebraska District

Luther League Camp, Covenant Cedars Bible Camp, Hordville, Nebraska —Aug. 16-22

Children's Bible Camp, Polk, Nebraska —June 27-July 3

Pacific District

Camp Seeley, Crestline, Calif.

Family Week —July 24-31

Senior Week —July 31-Aug. 7

Junior Week —Aug. 7-14

West Canada District

Sylvan Lake Bible Camp, Alberta

Family Week —July 12-18

Youth Week —July 19-25

Covenant Heights Bible Camp

Estes Park, Colorado —Aug. 23-29

NEWS AND NOTES

(Continued from page 2)

Christian he will be expected to "fire" one of his wives "and it is always the best and the least attractive of his wives whom he must keep."

However, worst of all is the fact that very often the released wives are compelled to take up prostitution as the only means of existence since prostitution often turns out to be the only way in which a husbandless African woman can "earn a living."

According to the Danish scientist, "it has caused many Christians great pain to think of what is done to the women when converted men are required to give up their numerous wives."

He added that the full hardship of

the situation cannot be understood unless consideration is given to the factor that most native plantation owners are used to treating women whom they hire for work as extra wives, and that they consider it their full right to beget children with the female workers.

Since, at best, an unwed African woman can accept only temporary employment on the plantations, "one can understand the difficulties such women face after they have changed places nine times and had children by nine different men," Dr. Brodersen said.

He will try to seek a solution to the problem by establishing a special home for tribal women in which they will be taught new ways and helped to find employment with Christian planters

willing to accept them as workers not compelled to fulfill "other duties."

An arrangement like that, he said, would help not only the women but also planters who, because they became Christians, have lost the work-power of their extra wives.

Dr. Brodersen added that in view of the complicated situation he did not dare to predict what success the new project would have.

PLEASE NOTICE!

Through an error, Froid, Montana was omitted in the itinerary for Bishop Skat Hoffmeyer instead of Dagmar, Montana. Bishop Hoffmeyer will appear in Froid, Montana on September 26, 1954.

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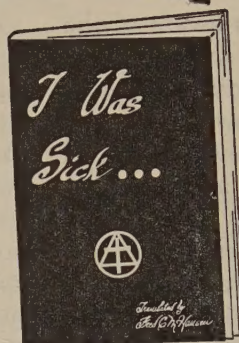
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